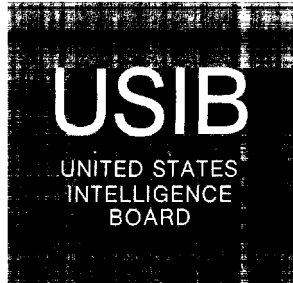


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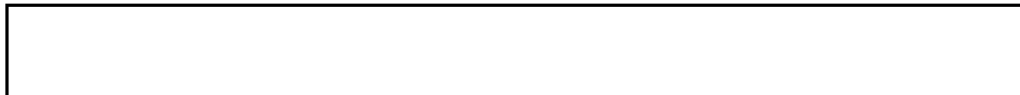
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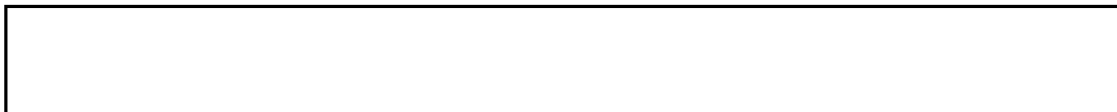
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LEBANON

Lebanon's top Christian leaders registered their unhappiness yesterday over the way in which the recent agreement between Syria and the Palestinians was concluded. The Christians did not participate in the negotiations and are fearful that Syria may have made unacceptable concessions to the Palestinians and the Lebanese left.

Phalanges Party leader Pierre Jumayyil issued a blunt statement yesterday reminding Palestinian chief Yasir Arafat that he is only an "honored guest" in Lebanon and does not have the authority to negotiate agreements on behalf of the Lebanese people. Jumayyil was careful to reaffirm his general approval of Syrian mediation and his willingness to cooperate with the tripartite truce commission, but he implied that the Christians do not feel bound by the terms of an agreement concluded by a Palestinian. Interior Minister Camille Shamun had similar complaints.

The Christians reportedly have strong reservations about the provision in the accord that rejects participation by Western powers in any renewed mediation. They probably also are worried about Syria's alleged agreement to begin withdrawing its troops from Lebanon. Their deepest suspicions are almost certainly aroused by the possibility that Arafat and the Syrians reached an understanding on the contentious issue of the status of the fedayeen in Lebanon.

During previous settlement talks, the Christians have insisted that the Palestinians agree to abide by the 1969 Cairo and 1973 Melkart accords, which regulate fedayeen activity in Lebanon. Having been nearly defeated by Palestinian and Muslim militias during the last round of fighting, the Christians are likely to be even more insistent on tight controls.



Jumayyil's statement yesterday seems to suggest that he is prepared to abide by the cease-fire at least temporarily and to further explore the implications of the Syrian-Palestinian agreement. Phalanges representatives attended the meeting of the joint truce commission yesterday and Phalanges militiamen have been ordered to honor the new truce, which went into effect yesterday. Interior Minister Shamun's representatives, however, continue to boycott the commission.



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There are still no indications that Syria has withdrawn any of its military forces from Lebanon, despite press dispatches reporting a pullback.

Syrian commando units reportedly are still in Lebanon's principal port cities, including Beirut, and a Syrian battalion-size force apparently remains in the Baydar Pass area. Syrian forces are still on both sides of the Lebanon-Syria border near the customs post of Al Masna that was returned to Lebanese authorities Saturday.

The US defense attache in Damascus noted little change in the disposition of Syrian troops yesterday morning when he visited the border near the Syrian command post opposite Al Masna. He reported that Syrian forces were well dug in on the Syrian side of the border, and that Syrian antiaircraft artillery defenses there appeared to have been strengthened.

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ITALY

Italian Christian Democratic chief Zaccagnini today opens another round of consultations with other party leaders, in what is widely viewed as one last, but not very hopeful, attempt to avert an early parliamentary election.

Zaccagnini's talks follow a compromise offer the Christian Democrats made last week after rejecting Socialist and Communist formulas for an emergency government. The Christian Democrats propose that Prime Minister Moro's minority government remain in office but negotiate an agreement on economic policy and the abortion issue with all parties except the neo-fascists.

The Socialist Party has already rejected the offer and called for an election but the Christian Democrats will still consult the Communists, Social Democrats, Republicans, and Liberals. All have reacted skeptically to Zaccagnini's initiative but have agreed to meet with him.

The Socialists' refusal to talk to Zaccagnini leaves him only a slim chance of success. The Socialists can topple the Moro government by voting against it in parliament and no workable non-Communist majority can be formed without them.

Zaccagnini's effort appears to be largely a tactical maneuver to isolate the Socialists and to permit the Christian Democrats to claim that they have gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid an election.

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FRANCE

Radical French students and teachers have decided to continue nationwide demonstrations against the government's proposed changes in the university system. Marches planned for this week are to culminate in a national "action day" on Friday. Protests last week resulted in violence, injuries, and almost 200 arrests.

The determination of the radical students to continue was strengthened by the university presidents' withdrawal late last week of their support for the government's program to make the curricula more relevant to the job market.

Despite their efforts, the students have failed to attract support from disgruntled workers and farmers. Appeals to leftist labor federations have reportedly gone unanswered. The major leftist parties have expressed approval of the students' actions but have not encouraged their members to participate.

Students opposed to the interruption of their schooling are calling for a counter-demonstration on Friday that could produce clashes with the student radicals.

Government officials have promised to consult with all interested parties before implementing the changes this fall, but they are not willing to back off further. If the government retreats, conservatives will have more fuel for their attacks on President Giscard for weak leadership. If the reforms are implemented over student opposition, the scale of violence could increase. In either case the government is in for more criticism.

While university reform is still the key issue, efforts by radical protesters to associate workers and farmers with their cause suggests they are trying to recreate the coalition of May 1968 that almost toppled the government. The students may believe President Giscard's government is weakened by its losses in recent elections and will be less resolute.

Support from labor is essential to the students' plan, but for the last two years the workers have generally been unwilling to risk their jobs in strikes that are not job related. The major labor federations leaders, like leftist politicians, hope for a leftist majority in the 1978 legislative elections and would not want to imperil their prospects by calling for disruptive demonstrations.

There is, however, widespread worker concern that the government's management of the economy has taken more from their pocketbooks than from business or the wealthy. If wildcat strikers decide to take advantage of the student demonstrations and stage their own street protests, security forces would be hard pressed to control the two groups.

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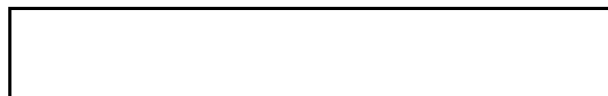
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